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Claim Amendments

1.   (original) A method comprising:

receiving a search expression;

determining a first plurality of values for a corresponding plurality of purchasable items, each of the first plurality of values based on a similarity between the search expression and its corresponding one of the purchasable items;

determining a second plurality of values for a corresponding plurality of pairs of the purchasable items, each of the second plurality of values based on a similarity between two purchasable items in a corresponding one of the pairs; and

determining a corresponding optimum path between the search expression and each of a subset of the purchasable items based on at least one of the first plurality of values and at least one of the second plurality of values.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the optimum path between the search expression and a purchasable item has an optimum sum of the values between the search expression and the purchasable item.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subset comprises a predetermined number of the purchasable items.

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4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subset comprises those of the purchasable items whose corresponding first plurality of values are beyond a threshold.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein for each of the purchasable items, the similarity between the search expression and the purchasable item is based on a similarity between the search expression and a description of the purchasable item.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the similarity between two purchasable items is based on a similarity between descriptions of the two purchasable items.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the search expression comprises at least one of a natural language search expression, a boolean search expression, and information from a plurality of user-enterable fields.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of purchasable items comprises a plurality of books.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein for each of the books, the similarity between the search expression

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and the book is based on at least one of a full text of the
book, an abstract of the book, and keywords for the book.

10.   (original) The method of claim 9 wherein for each
pair of the books, the similarity between the pair of books
is based on a similarity between at least one of full texts
of the books, abstracts of the books, and keywords for the
books.

11.   (original) The method of claim 10 further
comprising performing a transaction for at least one of the
books.

12.   (original) The method of claim 11 further
comprising displaying a visible representation of at least
one optimum path.

13.   (original) The method of claim 1 further
comprising performing a transaction for at least one of the
purchasable items.

14.   (original) The method of claim 1 further
comprising displaying a visible representation of at least
one optimum path.

15.   (original) The method of claim 1 further
comprising displaying a visible representation of each
optimum path.

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16. (original) A method comprising:

receiving a search expression, the search expression comprising at least one of a natural language search expression, a boolean search expression, and information from a plurality of user-enterable fields;

determining a first plurality of values for a corresponding plurality of purchasable items, each of the first plurality of values based on a similarity between the search expression and a description of its corresponding one of the plurality of purchasable items;

determining a second plurality of values for a corresponding plurality of pairs of the purchasable items, each of the second plurality of values based on a similarity between descriptions of two purchasable items in a corresponding one of the plurality of pairs;

determining a corresponding optimum path between the search expression and each of a subset of the purchasable items based on at least one of the first plurality of values and at least one of the second plurality of values, wherein the optimum path between the search expression and a purchasable item has an optimum sum of the values between the search expression and the purchasable item;

displaying a visible representation of at least one optimum path; and

performing a transaction for at least one of the purchasable items.

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17. (original) A method comprising:

receiving a search expression;

determining a first plurality of values for a corresponding plurality of Web pages, each of the first plurality of values based on a similarity between the search expression and its corresponding one of the plurality of Web pages;

determining a second plurality of values for a corresponding plurality of pairs of the Web pages, each of the second plurality of values based on a similarity between two Web pages in a corresponding one of the plurality of pairs; and

determining a corresponding optimum path between the search expression and each of a subset of the Web pages based on at least one of the first plurality of values and at least one of the second plurality of values.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the optimum path between the search expression and a Web page has an optimum sum of the values between the search expression and the Web page.

19. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the subset comprises a predetermined number of the Web pages.

20. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the subset comprises those of the Web pages whose corresponding first plurality of values are beyond a threshold.

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21. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the search expression comprises at least one of a natural language search expression, a boolean search expression, and information from a plurality of user-enterable fields.

22. (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising displaying a visible representation of at least one optimum path.

23. (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising displaying a visible representation of each optimum path.

24. (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing links to the subset of the Web pages.

25. (previously added) A method comprising:

receiving a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

performing a search to find one or more books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of books that are purchasable via an electronic commerce computer site;

performing a transaction in which the user uses the electronic commerce computer site to purchase a book user-selected from the one or more books; and

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making the full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the electronic commerce computer site prior to said performing the transaction.

26.   (previously added) A method comprising:

receiving a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

performing a search to find one or more books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of books that are purchasable via an electronic commerce computer site;

providing, to the user, information associated with a book user-selected from the one or more books after said performing the search, wherein the information comprises an image of the book and a price of the book, and wherein the information is absent the full text of the book;

making the full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the electronic commerce computer site; and

performing a transaction in which the user uses the electronic commerce computer site to purchase the book.

27.   (previously added) A method comprising:

receiving a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

performing a search to find one or more purchasable books of interest to the user based on a similarity between

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the search expression and a corresponding full text of each
of a plurality of purchasable books;

outputting at least one signal from a computer site to
provide a visible representation of the one or more
purchasable books to the user; and

making the corresponding full text of each of the one
or more purchasable books inaccessible to the user via the
computer site.

28.   (previously added)   The method of claim 27 wherein
the visible representation comprises one or more concave
regions to visibly represent the one or more purchasable
books.

29.   (previously added)   A method comprising:

receiving a search expression entered by a user, the
search expression comprising one or more words;

performing a search to find one or more books of
interest to the user based on a similarity between the
search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a
plurality of books that are purchasable via an electronic
commerce computer site;

outputting at least one signal from the electronic
commerce computer site to provide a user interface
comprising a visible representation of the one or more books
to the user;

providing, to the user, information associated with a
book selected from the one or more books by the user using

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the user interface, wherein the information comprises an image of the book, a price of the book and a description of the book, and wherein the information is absent the full text of the book;

making the full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the electronic commerce computer site; and

performing a transaction in which the user uses the electronic commerce computer site to purchase the book.

30.   (previously added)   The method of claim 29 wherein the visible representation comprises one or more concave regions to visibly represent the one or more books.

31.   (previously added)   The method of claim 29 wherein the visible representation and the information associated with the book are simultaneously viewable by the user.

32.   (new)   A system comprising:

a computer system to provide an electronic commerce computer site, the computer system to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of books that are purchasable via the electronic commerce computer site;

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perform a transaction in which the user uses the electronic commerce computer site to purchase a book user-selected from the one or more books; and

make the full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the electronic commerce computer site prior to performing the transaction.

33. (new) A system comprising:

a computer system to provide an electronic commerce computer site, the computer system to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of books that are purchasable via the electronic commerce computer site;

provide, to the user, information associated with a book user-selected from the one or more books after performing the search, wherein the information comprises an image of the book and a price of the book, and wherein the information is absent the full text of the book;

make the full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the electronic commerce computer site; and

perform a transaction in which the user uses the electronic commerce computer site to purchase the book.

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34.   (new)   A system comprising:

a computer system to provide a computer site, the computer system to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more purchasable books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of purchasable books;

output at least one signal from the computer site to provide a visible representation of the one or more purchasable books to the user; and

make the corresponding full text of each of the one or more purchasable books inaccessible to the user via the computer site.

35.   (new)   The system of claim 34 wherein the visible representation comprises one or more concave regions to visibly represent the one or more purchasable books.

36.   (new)   A system comprising:

a computer system to provide an electronic commerce computer site, the computer system to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a

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plurality of books that are purchasable via the electronic commerce computer site;

output at least one signal from the electronic commerce computer site to provide a user interface comprising a visible representation of the one or more books to the user;

provide, to the user, information associated with a book selected from the one or more books by the user using the user interface, wherein the information comprises an image of the book, a price of the book and a description of the book, and wherein the information is absent the full text of the book;

make the full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the electronic commerce computer site; and

perform a transaction in which the user uses the electronic commerce computer site to purchase the book.

37. (new) The system of claim 36 wherein the visible representation comprises one or more concave regions to visibly represent the one or more books.

38. (new) The system of claim 36 wherein the visible representation and the information associated with the book are simultaneously viewable by the user.

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39. (new) A computer-readable medium having computer-
readable program code to cause a computer system which
provides an electronic commerce computer site to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the
search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more books of interest
to the user based on a similarity between the search
expression and a corresponding full text of each of a
plurality of books that are purchasable via the electronic
commerce computer site;

perform a transaction in which the user uses the
electronic commerce computer site to purchase a book user-
selected from the one or more books; and

make the full text of the book inaccessible to the user
via the electronic commerce computer site prior to
performing the transaction.

40. (new) A computer-readable medium having computer-
readable program code to cause a computer system which
provides an electronic commerce computer site to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the
search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more books of interest
to the user based on a similarity between the search
expression and a corresponding full text of each of a
plurality of books that are purchasable via the electronic
commerce computer site;

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provide, to the user, information associated with a book user-selected from the one or more books after performing the search, wherein the information comprises an image of the book and a price of the book, and wherein the information is absent the full text of the book;

make the full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the electronic commerce computer site; and

perform a transaction in which the user uses the electronic commerce computer site to purchase the book.

41.   (new) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code to cause a computer system which provides a computer site to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more purchasable books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of purchasable books;

output at least one signal from the computer site to provide a visible representation of the one or more purchasable books to the user; and

make the corresponding full text of each of the one or more purchasable books inaccessible to the user via the computer site.

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42.   (new)   The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein the visible representation comprises one or more concave regions to visibly represent the one or more purchasable books.

43.   (new)   A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code to cause a computer system which provides an electronic commerce computer site to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of books that are purchasable via the electronic commerce computer site;

output at least one signal from the electronic commerce computer site to provide a user interface comprising a visible representation of the one or more books to the user;

provide, to the user, information associated with a book selected from the one or more books by the user using the user interface, wherein the information comprises an image of the book, a price of the book and a description of the book, and wherein the information is absent the full text of the book;

make the full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the electronic commerce computer site; and

perform a transaction in which the user uses the electronic commerce computer site to purchase the book.

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44. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 43 wherein the visible representation comprises one or more concave regions to visibly represent the one or more books.

45. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 43 wherein the visible representation and the information associated with the book are simultaneously viewable by the user.

46. (new) A system comprising:

a computer system to provide a computer site, the computer system to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more purchasable books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of purchasable books;

provide a link from the computer site to a computer address at which a book from the one or more purchasable books can be purchased by the user; and

make the corresponding full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the computer site.

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47.   (new)   A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code to cause a computer system which provides a computer site to:

receive a search expression entered by a user, the search expression comprising one or more words;

perform a search to find one or more purchasable books of interest to the user based on a similarity between the search expression and a corresponding full text of each of a plurality of purchasable books;

provide a link from the computer site to a computer address at which a book from the one or more purchasable books can be purchased by the user; and

make the corresponding full text of the book inaccessible to the user via the computer site.